

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 16, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

The Office rejected claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph for lack of antecedent basis. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12. It is submitted that this amendment overcomes the lack of antecedent basis. Claims 14-16 depend from claim 13.

The Office rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,411,977 to Slater, and claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 17-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0159389.


Claim 12 has been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 12 to include all of the limitations of base claim 11. Claims 1-11, and 20-28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 21 May 2007

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